

# **Protecting the Biodiversity of Habitats in the Awa Territory of Ecuador**

## **Final Technical Report and Project Culmination Status**

**Initial project period:** 1 October 2001-30 September 2003  
**Extension:** 1 October 2003-30 September 2004  
**Period covered by this report:** 1 October 2003-30 September 2004  
**Project executors:** WWF Colombia  
Altrópico Foundation  
Ecuadorian Federation of Awa Centres (FCAE, its Spanish acronym)  
**Contact person:** Maria Fernando Jaramillo, Chocó Programme Coordinator, WWF Colombia  
**Date of report:** November 8th 2004

### **A. Project Objective**

The project “*Protecting the Biodiversity of Habitats in the Awa Territory of Ecuador*” mainly aims to maintain vegetation cover and the elements and processes of biological and cultural diversity in Ecuador’s Awa Territory and its surrounding area through the empowerment of FCAE and other local organisations so they are capable of guiding development processes, while minimizing or neutralizing the adverse effects of the multiple pressures exerted on this resource-rich territory.

The Project’s Coordination and Monitoring Committee met in Quito on 28 January 2004, with the participation of the delegates of FCAE, Altrópico, WWF, and USAID. The Committee decided to dedicate the remaining resources and time granted by USAID to extend the project to 30 September 2004 and carry out the activities necessary to accomplish five expected outcomes related to the first phase of establishing a Centre for Training, Collection, and Transformation of Forestry Products in San Lorenzo. The Center would be responsible for processing and commercializing the lumber coming from the four Awa centres (Mataje, Guadualito, Balsareño and Pambilar) as part of the FCAE Forestry Management Subprogram.

#### **Expected outcomes to 30 September 2004**

1. Execution of the project to establish a Centre for Training, Collection, and Transformation of Forestry Products, based on the recommendations resulting from the study of social, environmental, and economic feasibility.
2. Legal constitution of the Centre for Training, Collection, and Transformation of Forestry Products in San Lorenzo.
3. Buildings and grounds renewed and adapted for operating the Forestry Centre.
4. The sawmill and accessories installed and ready to use.
5. Personnel of the Forestry Centre trained in re-sawing lumber.

### **B. Summary of the Status of Project Activities and Advances**

This report indicates the status of achievement of the outcomes expected in the last year of project execution.

Three of the five outcomes expected to be achieved by 30 September 2004 were accomplished as planned: (1) project execution, (2) legal constitution of the legal capacity to manage the Awa forestry company, and (3) the building and fencing off of the installations of the Forestry Transformation Centre in San Lorenzo. Another of the outcomes was partially fulfilled—the re-sawing mill was purchased in the United States, but its installation will only be possible towards November 2004. The necessary equipment has already been installed. The training of Awa staff to manage the re-sawing mill is still pending and will be conducted once the machinery has been installed.

Details of the activities carried out to achieve these outputs are given in the table included in point D of this report.

### **C. Specific Outputs obtained during Project Implementation**

- Project to reform FCAE statutes as well as general and special regulations terminated.
- General and special regulations approved by FCAE Assembly.
- Completed environmental impact assessment of the area where the San Lorenzo Forestry Transformation Centre (CTF, its Spanish acronym) is located.
- A temporary association for commercial purposes or joint adventure legally constituted and registered before the First Notary's Office of the San Lorenzo Canton between the FCAE and the Mataje, Pambilar, and La Unión Centers. This association will be responsible for managing the FCAE forestry company, in particular the CTF.
- The 8000-m<sup>2</sup> FCAE property located on Calle de Los Olivos, Nueva Esperanza Neighborhood, Province of Esmeraldas, in the San Lorenzo Canton, was duly recorded before the official notary and granted a land title deed.
- Building of a wall, fence, and entrance gate to close off an area of 1,625 m<sup>2</sup>.
- Facility constructed for the operation of the Forestry Transformation Centre, covering a surface area of 120 m<sup>2</sup>.
- A USA bandmill and sharpening shop complete with its accessories, with a capacity to saw 600 m<sup>3</sup> lumber per year, purchased.
- Triphasic transformer purchased, complete with accessories, posts, transportation, dimensioned drawings, and division of labor for operating the Forestry Transformation Centre.

#### D. Details of Activities Carried Out during the Reporting Period and Final Status of Proposed Results by the USAID Project

**Sole Objective:** To establish a center for training, collection, transformation, and marketing of FCAE forest products in San Lorenzo to process and market the lumber gathered from the four Awa centres of Mataje, Balsareño, Pambilar, and La Unión.

Outputs	Planned Activities	Final Status to 30 September 2004	Observations
<i>Output 1.</i> Legally constituted center for training, collection, and transformation of forestry products.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meetings to discuss the possibility of forming a civil society organisation.</li> <li>Decision-making process about the most appropriate legal instrument.</li> <li>Preparation of documents to establish the enterprise in accordance with the legal instrument selected.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Output accomplished.</b>            Planned activities carried out 100%.</p> <p>FCAE management, the lawyer, and technicians working in the areas of forestry and natural resources met to discuss and approve a legal instrument to manage the forestry company. The lawyer helped prepare the articles of partnership of the temporary association for commercial purposes. These were revised by all organizations participating in the project (USAID, the Altrópico Foundation, and WWF) as well as other friend organizations (Jatun Sacha, CAIMAN Project), and pertinent feedback was provided.</p> <p><i>Verification documents:</i>            Acts of meetings, legal documents, act of constitution of the temporary association for commercial purposes.</p>	<p>The pros and cons of several legal instruments to constitute the Awa Forestry Company were examined in accordance with the legislation in effect in Ecuador. One of the key issues of the analysis had to do with the implications that each figure could have on FCAE unity, empowerment, and autonomy. Of all the alternatives examined, it was decided that, from all viewpoints, the most favorable instrument was the constitution of a temporary association for commercial purposes between FCAE and the Awa Centres carrying out forestry-related activities.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval of the proposal to reformulate FCAE statutes and internal bylaws by the Governors' Council to allow the establishment of an Awa forestry enterprise.</li> </ul>	<p>Planned activities carried out 100%.</p> <p>The FCAE president called the Governors' Council to a meeting to propose the reformulation of statutes and prepare general and special regulations. The Council approved the proposal.</p> <p><i>Verification documents:</i>            Memorandums of agreement.</p>	<p>Because FCAE statutes should be updated to harmonize them with the current context in which the Awa organization works, the Governors' Council decided to reformulate the statutes while also preparing its internal bylaws—a tool that organization did not have and which could prove very useful for managing community and territorial issues.</p>

Outputs	Planned activities	Final Status to 30 September 2004	Observations
<i>Output 1</i> (Continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation of a proposal to reform FCAE Statutes and Internal Bylaws.</li> <li>Discussion of the project of statutes and regulation by the FCAE Governors' Council and by local and external technicians.</li> </ul>	<p>To draw up the proposal to reformulate the statutes and prepare the internal bylaws, the FCAE hired a lawyer after issuing a summons and analyzing the curriculum vitae of several candidates.</p> <p>At the meeting called by the FCAE president, the Governors' Council and local and external technicians helped revise the statutes as well as general and special regulations.</p> <p><i>Verification document:</i> Proposal of adjusted regulations and statutes.</p>	<p>The lawyer submitted to FCAE a proposal to reform social statutes, a proposal of internal bylaws, a special regulation for the FCAE Convention, a special regulation for the forest management subprogram, a special regulation on the management of vehicles and goods, and regulations to oversee scientific practices and studies.</p> <p>The new FCAE statutes shall be discussed during the FCAE Convention to be held in December 2004 or January 2005. Internal bylaws were approved by the Assembly held in July 2004.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Socialization of the Incorporation Agreement of the Temporary Association for Commercial Purposes at the Mataje, Balsareño, Pambilar, and La Unión Centres.</li> </ul>	<p>Planned activity carried out 100%.</p> <p><i>Verification documents:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Memorandum of socialization of the statutes of the Temporary Association for Commercial Purposes of the Centres and their approval.</li> <li>Memorandum of socialization of the statutes of the Temporary Association for Commercial Purposes at the Balsareño Centre and their non-approval.</li> </ul>	<p>The Balsareño Centre decided not to participate in the temporary association, arguing that it needed more time to examine such a delicate issue.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legalization of the Incorporation Agreement of the Temporary Association for Commercial Purposes.</li> </ul>	<p>Planned activity carried out 100%.</p> <p>The Incorporation Agreement is duly registered before the First Public Notary's Office of San Lorenzo Canton.</p>	<p>The organizations forming part of the commercial association are the Mataje, La Unión, and Pambilar Centres as well as the Ecuadorian Federation of Awa Centres itself.</p>

Outputs	Planned Activities	Final Status to 30 September 2004	Observations
<i>Output 2.</i> Legalization of the FCAE property located on Calle de los Olivos, Nueva Esperanza Neighborhood.	Presentation of land claim before the civil court system of the city of Limones, Province of Esmeraldas.	<b>Output accomplished.</b> Planned activities carried out 100%.  The FCAE property located in the San Lorenzo Canton now has its land deed registered before an official notary.	FCAE's claim to legalize the property was already advanced when the Municipal Administration of San Lorenzo informed the Federation that a 1988 resolution existed in which the Municipal Council granted the lands to the Awa Federation. From that moment on, the activities initially proposed in relation to the claim changed and the FCAE concentrated its efforts on rescuing the resolution granted by the Municipality. This transaction took more than two months. The FCAE considers that the claim forced the Municipal Administration to elucidate the true legal status of the FCAE property.

Outputs	Planned Activities	Final Status to 30 September 2004	Observations
<i>Output 3.</i> Adjustments made to property and infrastructure required to put the forestry Centre into operation built.	Surface area required to build the Forestry Centre within the property determined, construction planned, and pertinent budget detailed.	<b>Output accomplished.</b> Planned activities carried out 100%. FCAE directives and technicians analyzed legal issues, surface area of property, and use of the FCAE lot located in the Nueva Esperanza Neighborhood. A civil engineer of Quito contracted to draw up blueprints and calculate the budget.	Residents of the Nueva Esperanza Neighborhood were initially opposed to the building of the FCAE Forestry Centre. The organization came to an agreement with residents to surface the access road with gravel and the community accordingly granted permission to continue the work.
	Surface prepared to build the Forestry Centre facility (elimination of existing vegetation)	Planned activities carried out 100%.	
	Construction of wall, fences, and entrance gate.	Planned activities carried out 100%. An area of <b>1,625 m<sup>2</sup></b> was closed off.	
	Construction of platform and facility for sawmill and accessories.	Planned activities carried out 100%. The constructed area totaled <b>120 m<sup>2</sup></b> .	

Outputs	Planned Activities	Final Status to 30 September 2004	Observations
<i>Output 4.</i> Machines and other equipment installed and ready to initiate re-sawing of lumber.	Purchase and importation of a bandmill and accessories.	<b>Output partially accomplished.</b> Planned activity carried out 100%. Bandmill and sharpening shop and accessories purchased in the USA and arrived at the port of Guayaquil on 25 October. Customs procedures pending.	The bandmill purchased ( <b>WOOD-MIZER</b> , Model <b>LT15</b> E10) is capable of processing approximately 600 m <sup>3</sup> lumber per year.
	Installation of bandmill and accessories.	Activity to be carried out once the San Lorenzo mill is operating.	
	Purchase and installation of a triphasic transformer and other electric installations.	Planned activity carried out 100%. Contract signed with the <b>SERVIBASIC company</b> to purchase a transformer. Legal transactions are being carried out before EMELESA to install the triphasic transformer at the Forest Transformation Centre located in San Lorenzo Canton.	
	Request installation of electricity before Emelnorte S.A.	This activity is ongoing. The authorization requested before EMELESA to install the triphasic transformer at the Forestry Transformation Centre is still being processed.	
	Purchase of safety equipment for personnel.	Activity not carried out due to unforeseen contingencies.	FCAE and its forest team will seek other sources of funding this year.
	Purchase of a secretarial desk.	Planned activity carried out 100%. Desk for the FCAE secretary at San Lorenzo purchased.	

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Planned Activities</b>	<b>Final Status to 30 September 2004</b>	<b>Observations</b>
<i>Output 5.</i> Personnel of Forestry Centre selected and trained to handle machinery.	Determination of Forestry Center staff requirements.	<b>Output partially accomplished.</b> Planned activity carried out 100%. Staff requirements determined by the Forestry Transformation Centre feasibility study, describing the different functions and training needs.	
	Initiation of training of Centre personnel in the use and maintenance of machines, product design and manufacture, timber technology, and employee safety.	This activity will be carried out once the bandmill arrives to San Lorenzo. Training will be provided by the company selling the mill as part of sale - purchase agreement.	

**E. Problems encountered during this reporting period.**

During the last year of the project, there were no significant difficulties achieve expected outputs.